IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 3, 5 through 7, 9, 16, 28, 29 are amended herein. Claims 1, 2, 8, and 26 through 29 are canceled without prejudice. No claims are added. All pending claims and their present status are produced below.

1   1.   (Canceled).

1   2.   (Canceled).

1   3.   (Currently amended) A method of providing information from a host computer to a
2   user through a control device, the host computer located apart from the control
3   device, the method comprising:
4   receiving an event signal at the control device from the host computer indicating an
5   occurrence of an event; and
6   responsive to receiving the event signal, generating a notification signal to alter a
7   characteristic within a bounded region of the control device to notify the user
8   that the event has occurred,
9   wherein generating the notification signal comprises altering a visual indicator within
10   the bounded region on the control device, and altering The method of claim 2
11   wherein the visual indication comprises indicator comprises illuminating a
12   light source on the control device.

1   4.   (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the light source blinks to indicate that the
2   event is urgent.

1   5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 3, wherein generating the
2   notification signal further comprises:

Case 5509 (Amendment B)
U.S. Serial No. 09/750,889   2

19414/05509/DOCS/1418127.3

PAGE 6/15 * RCVD AT 4/26/2004 2:49:07 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:6509385200 * DURATION (mm-ss):07-54

3   providing the user with an audio indication on through the control device that the

4   event has occurred.

1   6.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 3, wherein generating the

2   notification signal further comprises:

3   providing the user with a vibratory indication within the bounded region on the

4   control device that the event has occurred.

1   7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 3, wherein generating the notification

2   signal further comprises:

3   providing the user with a tactile indication within the bounded region on the control

4   device that the event has occurred.

1   8.   (Canceled).

1   9.   (Currently amended) A method for notifying a computer user of occurrence of an

2   event, the method comprising:

3   receiving an event signal from a host computer at a control device that the event has

4   occurred, the control device including a surface having a texture that is

5   alterable; and

6   responsive to the event signal from the host computer, altering the texture on the

7   surface of the control device to provide a tactile indication to notify the user

8   that the event has occurred, The method of claim 8, wherein altering the

9   texture comprises[[:]] raising a plurality of pegs through a plurality of

10   apertures in the surface of the control device.

1   10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein raising the plurality of pegs comprises:

2   rotating an actuator to push a lever which is communicatively coupled to the plurality

3   of pegs.

1   11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the actuator is of electromagnetic type.

1   12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the electromagnetic actuator is bi-stable.

1   13.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the actuator is a solenoid.

1   14.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of pegs is in a grid shape.

1   15.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of pegs is in a quincunx

2   shape.

1   16.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[8]] 9, wherein the control device is a

2   mouse.

1   17.   (Original) A method for notifying a computer user of occurrence of an event, the

2   method comprising:

3   communicating from a host computer to a mouse that the event has occurred, the

4   mouse having a region on its surface for an alterable texture; and

5   responsive to the communication from the host computer, altering the texture on the

6   region on the surface of the mouse to notify the user that the event has

7   occurred, wherein altering the texture comprises raising a plurality of pegs

8   through a plurality of apertures in the region on the mouse.

1   18.   (Original) A system for notifying a computer user of an occurrence of an event by

2   changing the texture of a region on the control device being used by the user, the

3   system comprising:

Case 5509 (Amendment B)
U.S. Serial No. 09/750,889   4

19414/05509/DOCS/1418127.3

4   a plurality of pegs in the region on the control device for changing the texture of the

5   control device; and

6   an actuator module for controlling the plurality of pegs.

1   19. (Previously presented) A system for notifying a computer user of an occurrence of an

2   event by changing a texture of a region on a control device being used by the

3   computer user, the system comprising:

4   a key plate on the region of the control device; and

5   a pegs plate comprising a plurality of pegs, a portion of which can protrude through

6   the key plate to change the texture of the region on the control device.

1   20. (Previously presented) A system for notifying a computer user of an occurrence of an

2   event by changing a texture of a region on a control device being used by the user, the

3   system comprising:

4   a key plate on the region on the control device;

5   a pegs plate comprising a plurality of pegs, a portion of which can protrude through

6   the key plate to change the texture of the region on the control device;

7   a lever communicatively coupled to the pegs plate to reposition the pegs plate with

8   respect to the key plate;

9   a cam communicatively coupled to the lever for manipulating the lever; and

10   an actuator module communicatively coupled to the cam for rotating the cam.

1   21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the actuator module is bi-stable.

1   22. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the actuator module comprises a solenoid.

1   23. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the lever is flexible.

1   24.   (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the pegs plate comprises a plurality of

2   pegs in a grid shape.

1   25.   (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the pegs plate comprises a plurality of

2   pegs in a quincunx configuration.

1   26.   (Canceled).

1   27.   (Canceled).

1   28.   (Canceled).

1   29.   (Canceled).

     30.   (Previously presented) A method for notifying a computer user of occurrence of an

            event, the method comprising:

            receiving an event signal from a host computer at a control device that the event has

                   occurred, the control device including a surface having a texture that is

                   alterable; and

            responsive to the event signal from the host computer, altering the texture in the

                   region on the control device to provide tactile information to notify the user

                   that the event has occurred,

            wherein altering the texture comprises raising a plurality of pegs through a plurality

                   of apertures on the surface of the control device.